

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of transmitting a plurality of forward error corrected blocks within a ~~burst~~ frame structure including a header and a plurality of forward error-corrected blocks, comprising:

varying, using a computing device, the forward error-correction coding rate among the forward error corrected blocks, wherein the header of the frame structure indicates a coding rate of a first one of the blocks; and

~~including, using the computing device, a header in the burst indicating the coding rate of one of the blocks; and~~

indicating, using the computing device and data contained in said first one of the blocks, the coding rate of a subsequent one or more of the blocks independently from the coding rate of said one of the blocks, ~~using data contained in said one of the blocks.~~

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein said header comprises a variable unique word.

4. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the blocks contain packets addressed to a plurality of receivers.

5. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 4, wherein at least some of the packets are split between different ones of the blocks.

6. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the coding rate indicated in the header is less than or equal to the coding rate of the subsequent one or more blocks.

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7. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

transmitting, using a computing device, a ~~data-burst~~ frame structure utilizing comprising a unique word and a plurality of blocks, wherein the unique word is variable and indicates the transmission scheme of ~~at-least a first~~ one of said blocks, and said at least ~~one first~~ block indicates the transmission scheme of at least one other of said blocks independently from the transmission scheme of said ~~at-least-one first~~ block.

8-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the method includes a transmission over a satellite link between a satellite station and a mobile satellite terminal able to transmit at a selected one of a plurality of different forward error correction (FEC) coding rates wherein a change between successive ones of said FEC coding rates provides a substantially constant change in gain over the satellite link, the method comprising, at the terminal: transmitting a plurality of ~~bursts~~ frame structures to the satellite station, wherein the FEC coding rates of the ~~bursts~~ frame structures vary between at least some of said ~~bursts~~ frame structures in response to a signal from the satellite station.

15. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 14, wherein said signal is dependent on a reception quality of one or more of said ~~bursts~~ frame structures previously received from the mobile satellite terminal by the satellite station.

16. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 14 or claim 15, wherein the mobile satellite terminal selects the FEC coding rates of at least one of said ~~bursts~~ frame structures dependent on a reception quality of one or more transmissions transmitted from the satellite station to the mobile satellite terminal if said signal is not received from the satellite station within a timeout period.

17. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the method includes controlling a transmission to a satellite station from a mobile satellite terminal,

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able to transmit at a selected one of a plurality of different forward error correction (FEC) coding rates wherein a change between successive ones of said FEC coding rates provides a substantially constant change in gain over the satellite link, the method comprising, at the satellite station: receiving a first burst frame structure from the mobile satellite terminal and determining a reception quality of the first burst frame structure, and if the reception quality does not meet a predetermined criterion, transmitting a command to the mobile satellite terminal to select a different one of the FEC rates for transmission of a second, subsequent burst frame structure such that the second transmission is received with a reception quality which meets the predetermined criterion.

18. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 14, wherein said substantially constant change in gain is approximately 1 dB.

19. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 14, wherein the satellite station is a satellite ground station for communicating with the satellite terminal via a satellite.

20. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 14, wherein said satellite station is a satellite.

21-22. (Cancelled)

23. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 17, wherein said substantially constant change in gain is approximately 1 dB.

24. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 17, wherein the satellite station is a satellite ground station for communicating with the satellite terminal via a satellite.

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25. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 17, wherein said satellite station is a satellite.

26. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the transmission is from a transmitter to a plurality of receivers, and the transmission includes a plurality of packets addressed respectively to the receivers, further comprising:

determining the least capable of the receivers; and

selecting one or more parameters of the transmission so as to match the capabilities of the least capable of the receivers.

27. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 26, wherein the transmission includes a forward error-corrected block having a coding rate selected to match the capabilities of the least capable of the receivers.

28. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1,
wherein the transmission is from a transmitter to a plurality of receivers, and
wherein at least one of the blocks includes part or all of a plurality of packets addressed to different ones of said plurality of receivers and has a coding rate selected so as to match the capabilities of the least capable of the receivers to which the packets are addressed.

29. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 28, wherein at least some of the packets are split between different forward error-corrected blocks.

30. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising:
assigning a plurality of packets addressed to a respective plurality of wireless receivers to a plurality of bearers;
identifying the receiving capabilities of the wireless receivers; and
assigning packets addressed to ones of the receivers having similar receiving capabilities onto the same one of said bearers.

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31. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising:
- assigning a plurality of receivers to a plurality of bearers for reception of packets addressed to the receivers;
 - assigning packets to a smaller number of bearers containing packets addressed to receivers of differing receiving capabilities in a first, low traffic condition; and
 - assigning packets to a greater number of bearers and assigning packets addressed to those of the receivers having similar receiving capabilities onto the same one of said greater number of bearers in a second, high traffic condition.